would be necessary to meet the current year's expenses. I request the House to vote for this amount.

*Demand put and carried.*

## Prevention of Food Adulteration Bill.

**Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.**—Sir, I rise to move that the Cochin Prevention of Food Adulteration Bill be read in Council.

**Mr. C. J. Mathew.**—I second it.

**Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.**—I do not know whether the House would require much explanation from me on the Bill. The preamble has set out that it is for eradicating food adulteration which has become common practice in many parts of the State. The desirability of putting a stop to this thing in the interests of public health cannot, I think, be gainsaid. The existing law is meagre and it finds expression in sections 248 and 249 of the Cochin Penal Code and I may tell the House that these are among the few sections in the Penal Code which rarely come up for practical application. There is legislation on similar lines both in Travancore and in British India. They follow in their turn the Food Adulteration Act of 1817 which in England contains the English Law on the subject. Special legislation, I submit, is therefore necessary to prevent adulteration of food stuffs. Hence the Bill.

**Secretary to the Council.**—The title of the Bill is 'The Cochin Prevention of Food Adulteration Bill.'

**Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.**—Sir, I move that the Bill may be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the following Members:—The Government Advocate, Director of Public Health, Chief Medical Officer, Dr. A. R. Menon, Dr. K. Sankara Menon, Mr. Barton Wright and Mr. P. Raman Menon.

**Mr. C. J. Mathew.**—I second it.

*Motion put and carried.*

**Mr. K. T. Mathew.**—May I know whether the Government can include the name of the Director of Public Health if he is not appointed as an expert Member?

**Deputy President.**—He took oath this morning and he is one of the Members of this House so far this Bill is concerned.

**Dr. A. R. Menon.**—In the case of the Nambudiri Bill Committee the persons who were nominated were members.

**Deputy President.**—I appoint the Government Advocate as the Chairman. The report must be submitted within three months.

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